

MEETING MINUTES

BOARD/COMMITTEE NAME: Taxation Aid Committee

DATE OF MEETING: 02-09-2021

TIME OF MEETING: 4:30 pm

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual Meeting via Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88614170529> / By phone: 1 646 558 8656

Meeting ID: 886 1417 0529

AGENDA

1. Call to order: 4:35pm by Alejna – in attendance: Alejna Brugos, Joyce Gilmore, Kathleen Nicholson, Kevin Rudden, and Tom Zidelis. Conducting meeting virtually as per Governor Baker's Covid guidelines.
2. Clerk's report (approve minutes): Kevin motion to approve; Joyce second.
3. Treasurer's Report: not likely any additional contributions, but Tom will verify.
4. Discussion of means-tested property tax exemption for senior citizens
 - Review of documents sent by Kevin Rudden about potential tax impact to Mendon homeowners: reviewed the spreadsheets.
 - Timely to do this with school override expected in next fiscal year: could affect up 100 people.
 - Tom Z. and Kevin to work with Jean Berthold (Board of Assessors) and find average senior tax bill – if you qualify for circuit breaker - \$575 to \$2,300 off tax bill, plus 100% of circuit breaker = \$1,150 tax credit.
 - If we put this forward as an article: put forward proposal of METER exemption to Select Board for Reps' Murray and Senator Fattman between 50% and 200% - Select Board then picks once per year a rate (recommend every year); town residents vote.
 - Most of the towns are doing 200%
 - Vote May in town meeting; legislature gets it in June: 2 years from now.
 - Next steps: go to Select Board, and then go to Finance Meeting.
 - Next steps: Kevin Rudden will bring this to the assessors and meeting with Finance Committee.
 - **Select Board: get on May 2021 annual town meeting warrant.**

- Ideas to publicize: 1) go to Council on Aging; 2) virtual forums to educate people upfront; 3) Michelle Sanford from Town Crier to write article.
- **Kathleen proposes to take the METER proposal to the Select Board with the goal of having them put on annual town meeting warrant. Joyce seconds.**
- Roll call vote: Alejna Brugos, Kevin Rudden, Joyce Gilmore, Kathleen Nicholson, and Tom Zidelis – unanimous vote in support.
- Tom Z – take the legislation, slide presentation, and back-up documents to the Select Board.

5. Next steps

- Next steps: Alejna will contact Select Board to get on agenda once Tom and Kevin have document bundle together to share with Select Board. We do not want to miss the window of getting on warrant.

a. Outreach and publicity – see above re: METER program on warrant.

b. Future meetings – let's wait until once we are confirmed for Select Board Meeting. After we move forward with the METER project, we will move forward with Tax Aid form updates.

Tom Z. brought up getting word out to potential applicants: Future business.

6. Adjourn: 5:32pm EST motion to adjourn, Kathleen; Joyce seconds.

NOTE: Notices and agendas are to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings **excluding** Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. Any meetings that are to be held on Monday or Tuesday need to be posted by Thursday as the Town Clerk's office is closed on Fridays. Please keep in mind the Town Clerk's hours of operation and make necessary arrangements to be sure your posting is made in an adequate amount of time.

We kindly ask that all meetings and agendas for the following week be posted by **Thursdays at 3:30pm** in order to be included on the Committee Meeting List that is distributed.

*Per changes to the Open Meeting Law effective 7/1/10, "A listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting" are to be listed on the agenda.